

July 23, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, District of Columbia 20554

RE: Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, Third Report and Order - MB Docket No. 05-311

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I am writing to make you aware of my concern the FCC's proposed Third Report and Order requiring Local Franchising Authorities ("LFA's") to treat cable-related, in-kind contributions as franchise fees subject to the statutory five percent franchise fee cap.

This ruling would adversely effect our local access channel, and our community, greatly. Our community depends on having all municipal meetings broadcast live and archived through our public access stations, allowing even our most at risk and immobile members of the community access to government, educational and other community activities.

The nonprofit organization I work for relies heavily on our partnership with our local public access stations in our City and surrounding towns. Collaborations with not only our organization, but with local schools and residents provide new and interesting media. All of these public access stations also provide educational opportunities for students and adults alike, teaching them skills they can use to provide quality coverage of school activities, community functions and other programming that their family, friends and member of the community can enjoy; and that may lead them to career paths. Our local public access channel is more important than ever before; every citizen deserves access to a platform to express their views.

The loss of revenue caused by the Order will force municipalities to either divert resources away from core municipal and school services to maintain existing PEG programming, suffer a dramatic reduction in the scope of PEG channels, or lose them altogether.

The FCC is a guardian of the public interest, yet the effects of this order seem destined to go against the public interest. Rather, they amount to a windfall for cable providers eager to shed their civic responsibilities under Federal Law.

Lastly, I have read the contract our providers – Comcast and Verizon – have signed with our town, and this order seems in direct violation of both the letter and the spirit of that contract.

I strongly urge you to reconsider.

Sincerely,

Crystal Arnott
24 Cutler Rd
Litchfield, NH 03052